Gulbarga, Bijapur, Kittur, Mysore and Srirangapatna as heritage cities/ centres.

Financial Assistance to Cultural Heritage Projects

3309. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any special projects to preserve culture heritage in the country;

(b) whether Government have received any proposal from various State Governments for preservation of cultural heritage;

(c) whether Government are giving financial assistance to State Government's cultural heritage project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The mandate of Department of Culture is to support through its Schemes and Institutions, the preservation of cultural heritage of the country. Archaeological Survey of India protects selected monuments. The National Archives is the custodian of public records. The National Akademies, the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (Bhopal), the National Manuscripts Mission and other institutions are engaged in preservation of heritage. Besides, a special project like the National Mission on Built Heritage and Antiquities has been sanctioned. Over and above this, the Department of Culture supports individual and voluntary organizations to pursue their activities meant to foster the cultural heritage of the country.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of Hiuen Tsang Memorial at Nalanda in Bihar

3310. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to set up a Hiuen Tsang Memorial at Nalanda in Bihar during 2006, which is China-India Friendship year; and

(b) if so, the details in regard thereto and the extent to which